

(b) The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for the technical phases of practices or components of practices involving the planting of trees for forestry purposes and those involving the improving or protecting of a stand of forest trees, as specified in State and county programs. The U.S. Forest Service may utilize the assistance of private, State or Federal agencies in carrying out these assigned responsibilities, but services of State forestry agencies will be utilized to the extent that such services are available.

(c) The technical assistance to be furnished in servicing assigned practices will include, where appropriate, the following technical phases:

(1) Determining whether the practice is needed and practicable;

(2) Selecting the site (if necessary), complying with environmental and cultural regulations, determining the specific measures needed, and performing any required layout work for the practice;

(3) Supervising the installation of the practice if needed to assure conformity with specifications; and

(4) Certifying the extent performed and whether the specifications for the practice have been met. The technical agency shall perform all four phases for all assigned practices in State and county programs, except as may be provided in instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

**§ 701.62 Items of cost on which rates of cost-sharing may be based.**

Except as otherwise provided by the specific FSA procedural handbooks, notices, and regulations, the cost of any direct and significant factor in the performance of a practice may be considered in establishing the rate of cost-sharing for the practice.

**§ 701.63 Handbook, bulletins, instructions, and forms.**

The Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations is authorized to prepare and issue handbooks, bulletins, instructions, and forms, required in administering these programs. Copies of handbooks, bulletins, instructions and forms, containing detailed information on these programs as they apply

to specific States, counties, areas, farms, ranches and other eligible ownerships, will be available in the office of the State committee and the office of the county committee.

**§ 701.64 Opportunity for requesting cost-shares.**

Farmers, ranchers, eligible landowners, or eligible persons, regardless of race, sex, religion, color, or national origin, shall be given an opportunity to request that the Federal Government share in the cost of those practices they consider to be needed on their farm, ranch, or other eligible land. The county committee shall direct the available funds for cost-sharing to those practices where cost-sharing is considered most essential to the accomplishment of the program objective.

**§ 701.65 Repair, upkeep and maintenance of practices.**

Cost-sharing is not authorized for repairs or for normal upkeep or maintenance of any practice.

**§ 701.66 Public benefits when installing practices.**

Persons responsible for any aspect of performing practices are to be encouraged to install the practices in such a way to promote public benefits by improving or preserving environmental quality and ecological balance by preventing or abating pollution and other environmental degradation; benefiting the community by such means as preserving open space, or enhancing the appearance of the area; benefiting wildlife and other desirable life forms; preserving historic, archeological, or scenic sites, wetlands, ecologically critical areas and prime farmlands; avoiding the creation of hazards to persons or animals and avoiding actions that may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species and flood plains.

**§ 701.67 Payments for uncompleted practices.**

Cost-shares approved under these programs will not be considered as earned until all components of the approved practice are completed in accordance with applicable specifications and program provisions. Cost-shares